

# Prairie Farms Dairy announces planned CEO transition

The CEO of one of Edwardsville's largest companies is stepping down and will be replaced by a longtime executive.

Prairie Farms Dairy Inc. says Ed Mullins has decided to step down as chief executive officer/executive vice president to assume a new role as senior executive officer.

Current Senior Vice President of Sales Matt McClelland has been promoted to replace Mullins as CEO. McClelland joined Prairie Farms in 1991 and has held numerous leadership positions in sales and operations.

The planned transition will become effective on Jan. 1, 2022.

With a tenure of more than 40 years at Prairie Farms, Mullins will continue to be

actively involved in the company's day-to-day operations.

"On behalf of the Board, I want to thank Ed for his extraordinary commitment to Prairie Farms during the past four decades and thank Matt for accepting the CEO position," said Tony Graves, Prairie Farms' board president. "Ed and Matt have a combined 70-years of service to Prairie Farms, and we are proud of their exceptional leadership. As



Mullins



McClelland

successful dairy cooperatives in the Midwest and the South.

Elements of the cooperative include more than 700 farm families, 8100 employees, 50 manufacturing

plants, over 100 distribution facilities, and annual sales of over \$3 billion. they assume their new roles, the board has great confidence in their expertise to lead our cooperative into the next phase of growth."

Prairie Farms Dairy Inc. is one of the largest and most

plants, over 100 distribution facilities, and annual sales of over \$3 billion.

Prairie Farms is a nationally recognized leader in the dairy industry known for setting the standard for milk flavor innovations and producing award-winning milk, cheese, and cultured dairy products.

With headquarters in Edwardsville, the Prairie Farms distribution footprint covers more than 30 percent of the United States; products are available in grocery chains, mass merchandiser stores, club stores, convenience stores, dollar stores, drug stores, schools, foodservice outlets, and warehouse distribution centers. Prairie Farms' charitable giving program, Our Caps, Your Cause, supports a variety of nonprofit organizations.

## People in Business

### Broker attains SIOR designation

Broker Associate James Leopold with BARBERMURPHY is the youngest commercial real estate professional in Illinois



Leopold

and Missouri to achieve the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors (SIOR) designation, the company said.

He is also the third-youngest broker nationwide to earn the designation.

SIOR is a national organization offering the professional accreditation to commercial brokers and other industry professionals. It touts more than 3,400 members in 700 cities and 42 countries.

Leopold has been affiliated with BARBERMURPHY since 2016 and is one of the youngest brokers in the U.S. to achieve his Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation, which he attained in 2018. Both the SIOR and CCIM designations bear stringent education standards for membership.

Leopold's primary focus is on industrial sales, leasing and development.

### SIUE grad is Corps honoree

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Engineering alumnus Stefan Flynn has been recognized as the 2021 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Early Career Geoprofessional of the Year.



Flynn

The Corps awards select individuals for many categories across 43 districts in the continental U.S. and abroad. This award was specific to the Geotechnical, Geology, and Materials Community of Practice, which includes about 1,200 engineers and scientists.

In 2014, while pursuing a bachelor's in civil engineering at SIUE, Flynn began working with the USACE as a student intern at the St. Louis District. Upon graduation in 2015, he was offered a full-time job with the Rock Island District. He currently serves as a senior geotechnical engineer and conducts design, construction and inspection of dams, levees and navigation structures.

The Early Career Geoprofessional of the Year award recognizes Flynn for exhibiting professional-

ism and commitment to excellence.

### Neurologist expands base in Southern Illinois

Neurologist Dr. Raghav Govindarajan is now seeing patients in Sparta. HSHS Medical Group Neurology



Govindarajan

Specialty Clinic - Sparta is located at 205 S. Burns Ave. Govindarajan also sees patients at HSHS Medical Group Multi-specialty Care - St. Elizabeth's in O'Fallon.

Govindarajan provides general neurology care and diagnoses and treats conditions including ataxia, Parkinson's disease, movement disorders, muscle cramps, muscle weakness, multiple sclerosis and myasthenia gravis. Govindarajan received his medical degree from Bangalore (India) Medical College. He performed a neurology residency at Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Weston, Fla. Govindarajan completed a patient safety and quality improvement fellowship at International Society for Quality in Healthcare in Dublin, Ireland, and a neuromuscular medicine fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis.

Govindarajan is a member of the American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine, American College of Physicians and American Neurological Association. He is also vice chair of the Neuromuscular Section for the American Academy of Neurology.

### Banker named to spot on SWIC Foundation board

Jeanne M. Dalman, senior vice president of Retail Banking and Operations for the First National Bank of Waterloo,



Dalman

has been named to the Southwestern Illinois College Foundation Board.

As a board member, she will support the Foundation's efforts to secure gifts for special educational and cultural activities that are not part of the college budget. Dalman brings decades of experience in financial management to the Foundation Board. As a graduate of SWIC, then named Belleville Area College, with an Associate Degree in Business Administration, Dalman has

many years of banking experience and several years of serving in the public sector as St. Clair County deputy clerk. She will serve through 2030.

### Prudential Advisors marks new location

For more than 140 years throughout the country, Prudential Advisors has been helping individual and institutional customers grow, manage, and protect their wealth. Locally, the duo of Brian Hamann and Deanna Evans recently opened an office in East Alton and are now serving the entire Metro East area, including the Riverbend region, as well as parts of St. Louis.

Their newly opened location at 205 W. Main St., East Alton, is directly behind the East Alton Municipal Building at the intersection of West Main and North Pence streets.

The duo celebrated the official opening of their location with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Riverbend Growth Association on Sept. 24.

### Community banker named in Monroe County

Dawn Carter has joined Bank of Monroe County as a community banker and mortgage consultant, bringing decades



Carter

of client service experience to support Monroe County residents and their financial needs. Carter will assist Bank of Monroe County with a variety of loans including consumer and commercial loans as well as helping customers with a variety of financial needs. Carter has 22 years of experience managing clients, maintaining relationships, and leading marketing and business initiatives at an architectural firm. She has lived in Waterloo for 17 years and has a deep passion for supporting the community.

Carter has been a member of the Waterloo County Club for more than 15 years and served on its board for three years as the events planner. During her tenure, she originated the annual Stars n' Stripes event and ran the Couples League, Glow Ball Night Golf Tournament and Chili Cook-Off event.

Bank of Monroe County will be located at 813 N. Market St. in Waterloo. The bank is a division of Bank of Belleville, a 15-year-old bank which has grown to approximately a quarter of one billion dollars in assets and serves individual and business clients throughout the Metro East.

### Two businesses locate in same building

Harter, Larson and Dodd, Estate Planning and Elder Law Office, along with The Caring Group, a pediatric therapy group, celebrated ribbon cuttings on Sept. 22.

The two women-owned and operated businesses relocated to 723 Insight Ave. in O'Fallon behind CVS and Harley Davidson.

They opened their new building doors on Jan. 6, 2020. A little over two months later both offices shut those doors due to COVID-19. During the shutdown they were able to thrive with the addition of a variety of technological options for their clients. Today, they say they are growing at a rapid rate.

The owners, Heidi Dodd of Harter, Larson & Dodd, and Beth Mueller and Kim Wallace of The Caring Group, along with their office staff say they look forward to serving their current and future families, giving back to the community and supporting other local businesses.

### O'Fallon police chief retires, replaced

After 22 years as a police officer and eight years as director of Public Safety for the City of O'Fallon, Police Chief Eric Van Hook has announced his retirement from the City of O'Fallon.

Van Hook began in career as a police officer for O'Fallon in 1990. His last day will be Nov. 11.

His replacement is Kirk Brueggeman, a longtime captain on the police department.

Van Hook has a long list of accomplishments through his career, including the growth of the O'Fallon Police Department to 50 sworn full-time police officers, establishment of the Metro East Communications Center, a joint 911 dispatch center in partnership with Fairview Heights, Creation of O'Fallon's first diversity recruitment initiative, numerous officer well-being strategies, an officer body-worn camera program, and continuance of O'Fallon's mission of building strong community partnerships and the pursuit of safety for all citizens.

Van Hook was named the 2019 Chief of the Year by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police.

"It has been one of the highest honors of my life to serve the City of O'Fallon. It's a wonderful place to live, work, and serve," said Van Hook. "I have been a police officer my entire adult life and while I will miss the job, I know that O'Fallon will continue to be a leader in the region."

*Send People in Business items to Editor Dennis Grubaugh, [dgrubaugh@ibjonline.com](mailto:dgrubaugh@ibjonline.com).*